



# Reference Guide #7

## How to Search LexisNexis Congressional

The LexisNexis Congressional database provides full-text access to documents of the Senate and the House of Representatives. It includes bills, laws, testimony, Committee prints, hearings, reports, legislative histories, and voting records of members of Congress.

### PART I: ACCESSING LexisNexis Congressional

Go to the NWC Library Homepage <<http://www.nwc.navy.mil/library/>>, click *Databases*, and select the link *LexisNexis Congressional* found either in the Subject List under “Law” or in the Alphabetical List. You can also reach LexisNexis Congressional from LexisNexis Academic or from LexisNexis Statistical by clicking the link under “Search for Other Information.”

### PART II: SEARCHING LexisNexis Congressional

LexisNexis automatically opens up to the Congressional Publications basic search form. There are 6 Search Forms. You should **select the Search Form suitable for the document you need.**

A.

Choose the appropriate Search Form

#### Contents of the Search Forms:

- 1. Congressional Publications.** Search for Committee hearings (testimony), Committee prints, CRS reports, House & Senate documents, House & Senate reports, and legislative histories.
- 2. Legislative Histories, Bills & Laws.** Search for legislative histories, bill tracking, bill text, floor votes, public laws, and U.S. Code.
- 3. Members & Committees.** Search for the voting records, bill sponsorship, financial disclosures, campaign contributions, and profiles of House and Senate members.
- 4. Regulations.** Search the Code of Federal Regulations and the Federal Register.
- 5. Congressional Record & Rules.** Search the Congressional Record and Congressional rules.
- 6. Political News/Hot Topics.** Search for articles on newsworthy bills and topics in the *Washington Post*, *Roll Call*, and *The Hill*.

**NOTE:** See “Content Coverage Chart” for specific date ranges included in each category.

B.

Get **HELP** with *How to Use this Form*.

Online instructions are available for each of the 6 Search Forms.

Rules  
> Political News/Hot Topics  
Search for Other

Date: Previous 2 years Sep 13 2004 to Sep 13 2006  
Congress: Any Congress 91(1969-1970) to 109(2005-2006)  
\*required field Clear form

For maximum search control, full-text searching or Serial Set map searches, use the [Advanced Search](#) form.

Help Toolbox

- [How to Use this Form](#)
- [Practice Scenarios](#)
- [About Bills, Resolutions, and Laws](#)
- [About the Legislative Process](#)
- [How to Build a Search String](#)
- [How to Cite Electronic Publications](#)
- [Content Coverage Chart](#)
- [Congressional Session Dates](#)
- [Glossary](#)

C.

Enter search terms, dates, and numbers as needed in the appropriate search boxes.

### Lexis Nexis Search Term Operators

- **AND, OR, AND NOT**  
    **naval and warfare** finds articles containing both terms: *naval; warfare*  
    **naval or warfare** finds articles containing either term: *naval; warfare*  
    **naval and not warfare** finds articles containing the term *naval* without the word *warfare*
- **DO NOT USE QUOTES FOR PHRASES.** Two terms can be used in proximity without quotes.  
    **naval warfare** searches for the phrase *naval warfare*
- **Use w/n** to find terms within “n” number of words of each other.  
    **law w/3 sea** finds *law* within 3 words of *sea*  
    **weapons w/3 destruction** finds *weapons* within 3 words of *destruction*
- **Use !** to truncate terms. The computer searches for terms with variant endings.  
    **terror!** finds *terrorist; terrorists; terrorism*  
    **navigat!** finds *navigate; navigation; navigator*
- **Use \*** for each letter you need to substitute within a word.  
    **wom\*n** finds *women; woman*  
    **nav\*\*** finds *navy; naval; but not navies*
- For a complete list of search term operators, see LexisNexis “Help” links.

Please see a Reference Librarian for further assistance.